



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/200,874	11/27/1998	YOSHIO KIMURA	35.C13132	9880
5514	7590	08/26/2003	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			WALLERSON, MARK E	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
2626	19			
DATE MAILED: 08/26/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/200,874	Applicant(s) Kimura		
	Examiner Mark Wallerson	Art Unit 2622		
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>				
Period for Reply				
<p>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 				
Status				
<p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>Jun 16, 2003</u></p>				
<p>2a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p>				
<p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.</p>				
Disposition of Claims				
<p>4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-10</u> is/are pending in the application.</p>				
<p>4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p>				
<p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p>				
<p>6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-10</u> is/are rejected.</p>				
<p>7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p>				
<p>8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>				
Application Papers				
<p>9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p>				
<p>10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).</p>				
<p>11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.</p>				
<p>12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>				
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120				
<p>13) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p>				
<p>a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p>				
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</p>				
<p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.</p>				
<p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>				
<p>*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>				
<p>14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).</p>				
<p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.</p>				
<p>15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.</p>				
Attachment(s)				
<p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p>				
<p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p>				
<p>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). <u>18</u></p>				
<p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____</p>				
<p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p>				
<p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>				

Art Unit: 2626

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on **6/16/2003**.
2. This application has been reconsidered. Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Art Unit: 2626

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Konishi (U. S. 6,046,820).

With respect to claims 1, 7, 9, and 10, Konishi discloses an image processing method comprising the steps of inputting output characteristics data corresponding to each of a plurality of output apparatus (printers) that output an image, including a reference output apparatus (column 3, lines 27-31 and column 7, lines 27-31), calculating density correction data (column 1, lines 41-51) corresponding to the other output apparatus based on the output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus and the output characteristics data of the other apparatus (column 3, lines 32-55); managing the calculated density correction data corresponding to each of the output apparatus (column 3, lines 20-55), and updating the density correction data corresponding to the other output apparatus according to a revision of the output characteristics data of the reference output device (the data for grayscale correction includes density values) (the abstract) (column 6, line 58 to column 7, line 14).

With respect to claim 2, Konishi discloses the output characteristics data is formed by a calibration function of the output apparatus (column 3, lines 6-15).

With regard to claim 4, Konishi discloses setting a designation of the reference output apparatus (column 5, lines 27-35).

With respect to claim 6, Konishi discloses transmitting the correction data to a computer (column 5, lines 40-53), and the computer correcting input data based on the density correction data (column 5, lines 53-60 and column 7, lines 1-47).

Art Unit: 2626

With respect to claim 8, Konishi discloses image forming means for forming an image based on the correction data (column 4, lines 24-27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konishi (U. S. 6,046,820) (Konishi '820) in view of Konishi (U. S. 5,950,036) (Konishi '036).

With respect to claim 3, Konishi '820 differs from claims 3 and 5 in that he does not clearly disclose measuring the colors of an image. Konishi '036 discloses measuring a color of an image formed by an image signal corrected on the basis of the correction data formed by a calibration process after completion after completion of the calibration process (column 7, lines 10-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Konishi '820 to measure a color of an image formed by an image signal corrected based on density correction data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Konishi '820 by the teaching of Konishi '036 in order to print an image in correct colors as disclosed by Konishi '036 in column 7, lines 10-11.

Art Unit: 2626

With regard to claim 5, Konishi '820 differs from claim 5 in that he does not clearly disclose setting the designation of the output apparatus based on the instruction of a user. Konishi '036 discloses setting the designation of the output apparatus based on the instruction of a user (column 3, lines 51-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Konishi '820 to set the designation of the output apparatus based on the instruction of a user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Konishi '820 by the teaching of Konishi '036 in order to obtain more user control and ease of use.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. All claims are rejected.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2626

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Art Unit: 2626

MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Mark Wallerson